

Maduro secures these lifeline loans by promising to repay the Russians with future oil exports. But amid Venezuela's economic crisis, Maduro, not surprisingly, fell behind on those payments, reports indicate, beginning in 2017. News reports suggest that the Russian state oil company Rosneft lent the Venezuelan state oil company billions of dollars, partly as a prepayment for its crude oil.

Those oily tentacles are another reason why the Russia-Venezuelan Threat Mitigation Act is so vital. This bill would also require the President to give Congress an assessment of the security risks posed by any potential Russian acquisition of the U.S. energy infrastructure holdings of CITGO, which is owned by Venezuela. By monitoring the CITGO acquisition risks, we monitor one of Maduro's vital veins of sustenance.

Finally, what this bill would also do is allow the United States to use the diplomatic tools of travel to discourage further Russian-Venezuelan military entanglements. It would block travel to the United States by anyone who is acting or has acted on behalf of the Russian Government in direct support of the Venezuelan security forces.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. MALINOWSKI. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, except in rare circumstances, this bill would allow for a ban and immediate revocation of visas from anyone working on behalf of the Russian Government to directly bolster the Venezuelan security forces.

Right now, the people of Venezuela are enduring an unimaginable onslaught of hunger, preventable medical dangers, and dire escalating economic pain. We cannot stand idly by while Putin assists Maduro in carrying out this inhumane and barbaric tragedy.

The Russian-Venezuelan Threat Mitigation Act will make it harder for the Kremlin to outfit Maduro with weapons of oppression. This bill will also allow the United States to monitor and minimize the threat that Russia poses to the entire region.

Restoring democracy to Venezuela will not happen overnight. No single action alone could bring it about. But combined with the strong humanitarian aid and military export bills my colleagues have crafted that have passed on the floor tonight, the Russian-Venezuelan Threat Mitigation Act will provide part of the comprehensive solution this all-encompassing tragedy needs.

The Venezuelan people, including my friends and neighbors back home, desperately need this relief.

Mr. Speaker, I have heard real stories of neighbors and friends standing in front of me, describing the Maduro regime's confiscation of their businesses, just coming in one day and taking over everything. They have wrought devas-

tation across that land. Venezuela was once a vibrant, rich, successful democracy that he has driven into the ground for his own enrichment.

We can help bring this to an end through bills like the Russian-Venezuelan Threat Mitigation Act.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for their support of this critical legislation.

Mr. ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would once again like to thank my colleagues for the three bipartisan bills on Venezuela that have been considered by this House today.

This is one issue where all Members of Congress, regardless of party or background, should stand together with the people of Venezuela and support interim President Guaido's efforts to bring free and fair elections to the country.

The criminal socialist dictatorship of Nicolas Maduro has driven Venezuela to ruin. He is clinging to power by repressing the people of Venezuela while surrounding himself with foreign forces from Cuba and Russia.

Millions of Venezuelans have fled the dangerous and deteriorating circumstances at home, as Congresswoman WASSERMAN SCHULTZ mentioned about Weston. We also know about other places in west Miami where the Venezuelans, fortunately, are adding value to our economy now.

They have created burdens and instability far beyond Venezuela's border. The average Venezuelan has lost 20 kilos in the last 2 years. These people are starving to death under a repression that hasn't been seen since Ceausescu's Romania or Stalin's Russia.

Congress should support the administration's efforts to bring democracy and prosperity back to Venezuela, and these bills demonstrate our support for the values of freedom and liberty that the Venezuelan people desire and deserve.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support H.R. 1477, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MALINOWSKI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, I would once again like to thank Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ for authoring this important legislation and for her leadership on behalf of the Venezuelan people.

As we all know, Vladimir Putin is seeking to expand Russia's nefarious influence in many parts of the world, always against democracy, always in opposition to the idea that ordinary people have the right to stand up for human rights and against corruption, including in Venezuela.

This is the struggle of our time. This legislation makes it clear that we stand united with our allies in Latin America and across the world in rejecting the Kremlin's support for the corrupt Maduro regime.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MALINOWSKI) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1477, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING THE WORK OF TUBERCULOSIS SURVIVOR KATE O'BRIEN

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the great work of tuberculosis survivor Kate O'Brien.

Kate visited my office in Newark earlier this month, along with the staff from the Global Tuberculosis Institute of Rutgers University. She shared with me her inspiring story about surviving TB and the need for global and domestic TB funding.

Tuberculosis is a curable, airborne infection that kills more people worldwide than any other infectious disease. It is the leading killer of people with HIV worldwide.

Tuberculosis is also a problem here in the United States. In 2016, the disease was reported in each of the 50 States, with more than 9,000 cases reported across the country that year.

Though it is curable, TB has a huge economic impact. In my State of New Jersey, TB costs the economy \$5.7 million a year.

We have made tremendous progress to combat TB here in the United States. Because of the work of advocates and survivors like Kate O'Brien, we can raise awareness about tuberculosis, increase funding for research and treatment, and save lives at home and abroad.

HONORING ARMY SPECIALIST ROSS MCGINNIS ON NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR DAY

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today is National Medal of Honor Day, when this Nation recalls the sacrifice and heroics of all Medal of Honor recipients.

Over 150 years ago, on March 25, 1863, the first Medals of Honor were presented. In 1990, Congress designated March 25 as National Medal of Honor Day. The Medal of Honor is the highest military honor our Nation can bestow.

In 2016, I was able to recognize one of Pennsylvania's very own Medal of